

Combat Veteran seeks help to protect others

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To the Editor:

The Times, they are a changing. I remember hearing this song refrain many years ago when my body was in one piece and everything worked as designed by God. I was younger then.

The times have changed and thank God and a Doctor at Fort Lee, Virginia, that I am still alive. You see folks, I'm a fourth generation combat veteran and I have never asked for anything, not even a thank you for my service to this great country of ours. Why? Simple, I live here to, just making sure my home and family are secure, that's all.

My great uncle, whom I am named after, served in Manila during the Spanish American War 1898-1900. The poor guy died at sea from typhoid fever in 1900 at age 23 returning from Manila to San Francisco. My grandfather served in the Army during World War I in France. My Navy father did both World War II and the Korean War and I served in Vietnam as a Cavalry Soldier (1969-1970), as a government contractor in Desert Shield/Storm (1990-1991) and the Balkans (1996). I also did my share of the Cold War on the West/East German border back in 1970s thru 1980s with various Cavalry and Armored Units.

Like I have stated, a thank you is not necessary or desired, this is what my family does, and it's no big deal. I'm just an old soldier whom believes heroes are those who returned home in a box or never get to return at all.

This word has also changed over the years. I assume most of you spent the last Memorial Day with family or friends, enjoying each others company and cooking out or a day at the beach. Good for you. By my own choice, I spent the day alone, doing some work all day for a friend.

This gave me:

- Time to think about the young military men and women, whom continue to sacrifice their lives around this world today, fighting terrorism.
- Time to think about the soldiers whom I served with in "A" Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse), in Vietnam 1969, who died for this country.
- Time to think about those soldiers in the 82nd Airborne Division that I had the honor of supporting in Desert Storm, whom died for this country.
- Time to think about my father and grandfathers' generations of Americans whom died for this country.

Regardless of your political views about whom we fight today (I'm a Non-Political Person), we as Americans must always support those who defend this country. Without the Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen, there neither would nor will be a United States of America; I hope the truth hurts you just a little, because it is the truth. Americans have sacrificed themselves ever since the Spanish American War, that is, fighting outside of our own country and it shall continue until the end of time; this is just the way it is. To me, Memorial Day is to remember those who gave their lives, so you and I can enjoy life as Americans, it's that simple, but yet many forget the true purpose of this day.

As a highly respected and great older gentleman friend tells me rather often, "And the Horse you rode in on." Once Cav, always Cav, Sir!

Now that you know where I come from, where I have been, it's time to tell you where I am going with this letter. I need assistance in a big way. Is there a Lawyer out there that is willing to help me fight for justice and what is right? A lawyer that will help me in getting an employee of Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia, out of the system so he can no longer cause harm to an American veteran. This individual has played the role of doctor on me (he is not a doctor) and now I pay the price. At least I am still alive, thank God, but I'm not at 100 percent as I was prior to March of this year.

The damage has been done to me, but what scares me more is, what other veterans will he caused harm to or has cause harm to. I have contacted various law firms in the Richmond area and others keep passing me off to some online Lawyers or other lawyers. I guess the fact of fighting the Veterans Administration or their cut of a lawsuit is not enough.

I even filed a complaint with the Commonwealth of Virginia, Enforcement Division of the Department of Health Professions and there is nothing they can do. The individual in question has not been licensed in Virginia since 1998, but yet he works and lives in the Commonwealth. Some federal law allows it. I was told by the Department of Health Professions that I would have to research the other 49 states to find out which state has him licensed so action via a complaint can be taken.

I even called the Administrator's Office of Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center last week asking for assistance to where he is licensed and received NO REPLY thus far. Is there a lawyer anywhere that would look at all the facts and documentation I have accumulated and assist me to get this man out of our medical system? Is there? I assume that once a lawyer knows I have very little money to pay for assistance, I will get another NO REPLY.

That's OK because, there are millions of Veteran's or a family members of a Veteran and I pray to GOD you stand up and tell OUR Government this is wrong and demand corrective action NOW, not months or years down the road, but NOW. I'm am not asking for legal assistance to profit by this

action, I will get my due compensation in the months or years to come from the VA, I am in this to get this person out of the system that is suppose to take care of my combat injuries and those of my fellow present and past military men and women.

I have been with the military all my life, born in it, raised in it and served in it and continue to work with our soldiers as of today; I owe it to them to clean up this mess. My loyalty to country and my Integrity can not be broken by anyone. Charles L. Munton, Retired US Army Sergeant First Class, Colonial Heights, Virginia.